

Parents: How to Encourage Effective Help

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Parental Overinvolvement

- What is going on
 - Manage details of child’s life
 - Especially school and sports
 - Emotional investment in child’s outcome
- Why?
 - Varied family structures lead to parents who want stability for child – protection
 - Cultural environment of parents who are involved, overprotective, & child-focused
 - Digital connections considered normal

Results of Hovering

- Lower quality parent-child communication
 - Leads to lower family satisfaction
- Parent anxiety leads to anxiety in children
 - Parental control seen as evidence of fearful situation
- Children are less emotionally stable
 - External locus of control
- Young adults exhibit entitlement

The Effect on Schooling

- Focus is on results not on process
 - Both students and parents
 - High stakes testing only complicates
- Control of curriculum shifts from school to parents
- As homework becomes more complicated, parents become more involved and less effective

Parental Concerns with Homework

- “Busywork”
- Too little information on what parents are to do
 - Assumption that parents are to be involved
- Frustration and/or embarrassment at not understanding directions or having the skills to help
 - If not busywork, then the homework is too hard
 - SES/cultural differences

How Homework is Evaluated

- Students, parents and teachers believe homework will help students
- 26% of students, 24% of teachers, and 40% of parents think it is “busywork”
- 29% of teachers report homework is a “major source of stress”
- Parental involvement more positive factor than SES is a negative factor
- Primarily mother’s involvement

Purpose of Homework?

- 3 types
 - Practice, Preparation, and Integration (includes long-term work)
- 4 types
 - Memorization of rules, etc., increase skill speed, deepening understanding of a concept, preparation for following day's learning
- Does it work?
 - Gains for students who complete homework are between 8% and 31%

How Schools can Control the Homework Process

- Communicate goals and expectations
 - To parents and students
- Develop methods which require parental guidance, not knowledge
- Offer help to parents in developing skills

Partnership Homework

- Regular part of the programme
- Read together – focus on activities
- involve parents in classroom activities, give parents voice in decisions, genuine effort to reach out to parents
- Link schoolwork with real-life situations
- Show, share, talk
- [homework sheet](#)
- Very clear when homework is to be solo

Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork

- Homework is student’s responsibility, parents are supportive
- With family, students demonstrate maths skills, conduct science experiments, share ideas and obtain reactions to written work, conduct surveys or interviews, gather family memories, apply school skills to real life
- www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/tips/index.htm
- <http://spearfish.k12.sd.us/west/Specials/Penny/Teacher%20Involve/overview.htm>

TIPS Process

- Orientation of families
- TIPS activities go home regularly
- Extra time given to ensure family participation
- Assignment no longer than two sides of one page in simple language
- Use readily available materials at no or minimal cost
- Include communication from home to teacher about the exercise
- Treated the same as other homework

Include Parents in Homework

- Overinvolvement is not healthy for children
- Helping parents develop proper involvement helps children learn
- Include parents as part of the process by:
 - Providing instruction for parents
 - Use of rubrics, check sheets
 - Feedback both from home and from school
 - Integral part of programme
